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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 JERUSALEM 001655

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

NEA FOR FO; NEA/SA/EX FOR AUSTIN-FERGUSON; DEPT FOR
DS/IP/ITA; DEPT FOR DS/IP/NEA; NSC FOR ABRAMS/DANIN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PTER](#) [PBTS](#) [PHUM](#) [KWBG](#) [KPAL](#) [IS](#) [ASEC](#)

SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: APRIL 21, 2005 (1600 HOURS LOCAL) --
IDF SOLDIER INJURED IN THE GAZA STRIP, SIX PALESTINIANS
ARRESTED IN THE WEST BANK

This is a joint ConGen Jerusalem/Embassy Tel Aviv cable.

1. (SBU) Summary: In the West Bank, a Palestinian shepherd was attacked by a number of settlers from Betar Illit settlement, near Husan village by Bethlehem on April 20. Six Palestinians were arrested in various areas of the West Bank April 20. In the Gaza Strip, one IDF soldier was moderately injured when an RPG struck the vehicle in which he and several other soldiers were traveling north of Nahal Oz. Palestinian militants attempted unsuccessfully to fire one homemade rocket towards the Green Line from the Sheja'ya neighborhood of Gaza City overnight April 20-21. End Summary.

West Bank

2. (SBU) ATTACKS/SECURITY:

-- Deaths/Injuries: Nil.

-- Arrests: According to Palestinian sources, IDF soldiers arrested three Palestinian minors in al-Arroub refugee camp, near Hebron, April 20.

-- Arrests: According to Palestinian media, the IDF arrested two Palestinian militants in Surif village, near Hebron, April 20.

-- Arrests: According to Palestinian sources, the IDF arrested Palestinian youth at Bayt Eba checkpoint, near Nablus, with a bag containing ammunition and explosives, April 20.

-- Attacks: According to Palestinian media, a Palestinian shepherd was attacked by a number of settlers from Betar Illit settlement, near Husan village, in the Bethlehem area, April 20.

-- Security Incidents: According to Palestinian reports, IDF soldiers found and defused explosive device near Qalqiliya, April 21.

3. (SBU) CONFISCATIONS:

-- According to Palestinian media, the IDF turned a rooftop of a Palestinian house into a military outpost in the village of Bet Marsam, west of Hebron, April 20.

-- According to Palestinian reports, the IDF issued confiscation orders for military purposes for three houses in the village of Al-Aqaba, near Taysir, in the northern West Bank, April 19.

4. (SBU) PROTESTS:

-- According to Palestinian sources, a demonstration against the construction of the separation barrier took place in Bil'in village, west of Ramallah, April 21.

Gaza

5. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injuries: Israeli media reported that one IDF soldier was moderately injured, April 21, when an RPG struck the vehicle in which he and several other soldiers were traveling north of Nahal Oz. Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) reportedly took responsibility for the attack.

-- Catch-up item: Injuries/Arrests: UNRWA reported that two Palestinians were injured April 19 during a violent dispute that reportedly broke out between Fatah supporters at al-Aqsa University in Gaza City. PA police reportedly broke up the dispute and arrested several combatants.

-- Mortars/Rockets: UNRA reported that Palestinian militants attempted unsuccessfully to fire one homemade rocket towards the green line from the Sheja'ya neighborhood of Gaza City overnight April 20-21. The rocket exploded prematurely, in a Palestinian area. No injuries were reported.

16. (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS:

-- Route Four (Salahadeen Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was open April 21, with a major detour at Netzarim Junction.

-- Erez Crossing was open April 20, and 4,571 laborers and 408 merchants crossed into Israel.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone open April 20, and 667 laborers entered.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed for Palestinian laborers but open for the import of aggregates used in construction April 21.

-- Karni Terminal was open April 21.

-- Rafah Terminal was open for arrivals and departures April 21.

-- Tel al-Sultan checkpoint was closed April 21. Toufah checkpoint was open for residents of al-Mowassi.
Pearce